



*Potters Bar UDC*

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# PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT

1967



POTTERS BAR URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(M. I. OUTRAM, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.)

for the Year 1967

together with

# THE REPORT

of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

(J. H. Rooley, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.)

# Urban District Council of Potters Bar

PUBLIC HEALTH & HOUSING DEPARTMENT

*With the Compliments of the  
Medical Officer of Health*

WYLLYOTTS MANOR,  
DARKES LANE,  
POTTERS BAR, HERTS.

Public Health & Housing Department,

Wylllyotts Manor,

Darkes Lane,

Potters Bar,

Hertfordshire.

31st August, 1968.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Potters Bar Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Once more it is my pleasure to present to you my Annual Report on the health of Potters Bar. The Report covers the year 1967 and it has been compiled in accordance with the provisions of Circular 1/68 received from the Ministry of Health.

The statistics relating to the social conditions of the area are given on pages 3 and 4 and it will be seen that there is a slight decrease in the birth rate - at 15.8 the lowest since 1957. Other figures are little different from those of recent years but it is pleasing to note that infant deaths are again very low and that once more there were no maternal deaths. The infantile mortality rate at 8.0 is almost as low as the exceptionally low figure for 1966 (7.5). The number of deaths in the district increased and once more heart diseases and cancer were the main causes. I am sorry to see that there has been a slight increase in the number of deaths from bronchitis, particularly as this follows a number of years when the number steadily decreased, but, as I have pointed out in my Report before, undue significance should not be placed on the figures for any one particular year.

Details of infectious diseases are shown on pages 12-14 and the number of notifications received was again very low - 1 case of food poisoning and 4 cases of scarlet fever in addition to those of measles and whooping cough. Three new cases of tuberculosis were added to the register but at the end of the year the total remaining (64) was the lowest for very many years.

From a public health point of view, little of a spectacular nature occurred during 1967 and I think members of the Council will agree with me that Potters Bar is fortunate in having few of the problems which still prevail in many parts of the country.

Again I would like to record my appreciation of the work carried out by all the Public Health staff, and especially to Mr. Rooley, Mr. Rixson and Mr. Orrigan for their unfailing help in their particular spheres.

I am,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Your obedient servant,

M.I. OUTRAM.

Medical Officer of Health.

Section A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

OF THE AREA

Area .. .. .	6,129 acres
Population (mid 1967 - Registrar General's Estimate) .. .. .	24,730
Number of rated domestic premises (1st April, 1967)	8,037
Rateable Value (1st April, 1967) .. .. .	£1,350,224
Product of a penny rate (year commencing 1st April, 1967) .. .. .	£5,700

VITAL STATISTICS

Births

Live Births .. .. .	391
Live birth-rate (unadjusted) per 1,000 population	15.8
Live birth-rate (adjusted) per 1,000-population ..	15.8
Live birth-rate per 1,000 population for England and Wales .. .. .	17.2
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	6.1
Still-births .. .. .	4
Still-birth rate per 1,000 (live and still) births	10.1
Total live and still-births .. .. .	395

Infant Mortality

Infant deaths (deaths under 1 year) .. .. .	3
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births - total	8
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births for England and Wales .. .. .	18.3
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births - legitimate .. .. .	7.7
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births - illegitimate .. .. .	NIL
Neo-Natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births (first four weeks) .. .. .	5.1
Neo-Natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births for England and Wales .. .. .	12.5
Early Neo-Natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births (first week) .. .. .	5.1
Perinatal mortality rate (still-births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still-births)	15.2



### Maternal mortality

Maternal deaths (including abortion) .. .. . NIL  
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still-births NIL  
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still-births  
for England and Wales .. .. . 0.2

### Deaths

Death-rate (unadjusted) per 1,000 population .. .. . 9.4  
Death-rate (adjusted) per 1,000 population .. .. . 10.06  
Death-rate per 1,000 population for England and Wales 11.2

### Births

1967	Live Births			Still Births		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	195	172	367	2	2	4
Illegitimate	13	11	24	-	-	-
TOTALS	208	183	391	2	2	4



<u>DEATHS - Causes</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis - Respiratory System .. ..	1	0	1
Tuberculosis - other forms .. .. .	0	1	1
Syphilitic Diseases .. .. .	1	0	1
Cancer - all forms and other malignant neoplasms .. .. .	13	22	35
Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	16	23	39
Heart Diseases .. .. .	43	30	73
Other Circulatory Diseases .. .. .	9	6	15
Pneumonia .. .. .	7	16	23
Bronchitis .. .. .	10	2	12
Other diseases of respiratory system ..	1	0	1
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum .. ..	0	2	2
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ..	1	1	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis .. .. .	1	0	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents .. .. .	4	1	5
Other Accidents .. .. .	2	1	3
Suicide .. .. .	0	1	1
Other causes .. .. .	9	8	17
Homicide and Operations of War .. ..	1	0	1
Totals	119	114	233

The following tables show details of statistics for the years since 1941.

1. POPULATION, RATEABLE VALUE, etc.

Year	Number of Rated Domestic Premises	Rateable Value of District at 1st April	Population (mid-year)
		£	
1921 (Census)	-	-	3135
1931 (Census)	-	-	5720
1941	4429	150,369	14850
1951	5074	169,444	16800 (Estimate) 17163 (Census)
1952	5149	171,671	16970
1953	5247	174,831	17210
1954	5286	180,300	17620
1955	5485	187,121	17790
1956	5700	193,264	18910
1957	6400	332,572	20370
1958	6970	346,170	22000
1959	7219	366,460	22750
1960	7300	389,254	23140
1961	7500	405,349	23080 (Estimate) 23360 (Census)
1962	7559	422,417	23530
1963	7637	1,229,341 *	23870
1964	7685	1,253 012	24120
1965	7832	1,296,030	24440
1966	7960	1 319,657	24650
1967	8037	1,350,224	24730

\* New Valuation List came into force 1st April, 1963.

2. DEATH RATE, BIRTH RATE, etc. (unadjusted)

Year	Death Rate	Birth Rate	Infantile Mortality Rate
1941	+	+	+
1942	9.9	17.1	23.9
1943	9.7	17.4	16.1
1944	8.9	20.6	30.8
1945	10.4	15.4	36.4
1946	8.7	18.4	14.1
1947	8.9	19.0	32.6
1948	7.8	17.7	6.9
1949	7.8	15.3	15.9
1950	8.4	15.2	19.8
1951	9.8	14.6	24.5
1952	8.9	13.8	21.3
1953	8.3	14.2	16.4
1954	7.4	14.0	12.1
1955	8.0	13.6	8.3
1956	9.2	15.7	27.0
1957	8.5	15.5	15.8
1958	7.7	18.1	10.1
1959	8.8	16.0	19.3
1960	8.1	17.1	20.2
1961	7.2	17.0	10.2
1962	8.4	16.7	10.2
1963	8.8	17.0	12.3
1964	8.7	19.0	19.6
1965	8.8	16.2	17.7
1966	8.7	16.3	7.5
1967	9.4	15.8	8.0

+ Figures not available

Section B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

FOR THE AREA

The Council's Public Health and Housing Committee deals with all matters now dealt with in the Department. A Sub-Committee of the Public Health and Housing Committee deals with Home Safety.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health (Part-time):  
M.I. OUTRAM, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector & Housing Manager:  
Inspector under the Petroleum Acts & Shops Act:

\*J.H. ROOLEY, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:

\*R.W. RIXSON, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector:

F.J. ORRIGAN, M.A.P.H.I.

Rodent Operator:

G.S. MARTIN

\* In addition to the basic qualification and diploma for Inspectors of Meat and Other Foods, these officers hold the diploma of the Royal Society of Health in "Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works".

## LABORATORY FACILITIES

The laboratory work of the Council was carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service at the Central Public Health Laboratory, Colindale, N.W.9. This laboratory is directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health.

The specimens submitted by the Public Health Department were:-

Liquid pasteurised egg .. .. .	1
Ice-Cream Samples .. .. .	56
Stools .. .. .	24

## AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The Ambulance Service is operated by the Hertfordshire County Council and vehicles are kept at various stations throughout the County. Since the transfer of Potters Bar into Hertfordshire ambulances have operated from the Fire and Ambulance Station, Mutton Lane.

## NURSING IN THE HOME

There is a domiciliary service of midwifery and general nursing in operation in the district provided by the Divisional Health Committee.

## TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS

There are two clinics - one at The Elms, High Street, Potters Bar, and one at the Welfare Centre, Mutton Lane. Both these centres are under the control of the Divisional Health Committee and give facilities for ante-natal, maternity and child welfare, dental and chiropody services.

## HOSPITALS

There are two hospitals within the district - Potters Bar and District Hospital, Mutton Lane, and the Clare Hall Hospital at South Mimms. They are controlled by the Barnet Group Hospital Management Committee.

The cases of infectious disease which require removal to hospital are normally sent to Coppett's Wood Hospital.

The Chest Clinic for the Potters Bar area is held at Clare Hall.



## Section C

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

#### WATER SUPPLY

The District is supplied by the Lee Valley Water Company and all houses have a mains supply. During the year 463 samples representative of supply were taken for bacteriological examination, and 8 samples for chemical analysis.

All conformed to standards of purity considered suitable for public supply.

The water supply is not plumbo-solvent.

The natural fluoride content of the water supply is less than 0.2 p.p.m. No artificial fluoridation is at present proposed by the Water Company because of lack of unanimity among the local authorities served.

#### SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

On the sewerage system and sewage disposal the Engineer and Surveyor reports as follows:-

"As forecast in my report last year, the major scheme to deal with the surface water problem in the area between Darkes Lane and the High Street to cater for the considerable business and office development adjacent to the shopping area was commenced in June, and good progress was made with this contract by the end of the year.

Minor schemes to improve the soil and surface water drainage have been carried out, together with the usual programme of maintenance.

The problem of infiltration of surface water into soil sewers still exists but during the year further progress has been made in the investigation by the installation of recorders in all the main sewers. The three-monthly period during which the recorders have been installed is just completed and the results will be made known to an early meeting of the Council, with recommendations for remedial

works which could be undertaken.

Apart from this problem, which only occurs for relatively short periods in time of heavy rain, the arrangements for sewerage and sewage disposal in the district can be considered adequate.

### PUBLIC CLEANSING

The Engineer and Surveyor of the Council reports:-

"Street cleansing has continued satisfactorily, based upon mechanical means, for all roads in the district. It has not been necessary to introduce any revised arrangements during the last year.

Gully cleansing is satisfactorily carried out by contract.

Messrs. D. Heath & Sons' contract for collection of domestic and trade refuse ends on the 31st March, 1968, and the Council is negotiating with the Contractors for an extension of the contract. This firm has given full co-operation in maintaining an efficient service within the terms of the contract.

Refuse disposal continues satisfactorily by controlled tipping in accordance with the terms of the contract with the St. Albans Sand and Gravel Company."

### SWIMMING POOL

The construction of a new public swimming pool which began in 1966 continued throughout 1967.

### FACTORIES ACT, 1961

In accordance with Section 153(1) of the Factories Act, 1961, particulars of factories and action taken under the Act are shown as an appendix to this report.



NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

(a) Removal to Hospital

In certain circumstances under Section 47 of this Act, the Medical Officer of Health may arrange the compulsory removal to hospital of aged or infirm persons who are not receiving proper care and attention. During 1967 it was not necessary to use these powers.

(b) Burial of the Dead

Under Section 50 of the Act, it is the responsibility of the District Council to arrange the burial or cremation of all persons who die in the district for whom no suitable arrangements otherwise would be made. No occasions arose during 1967 when it was necessary to use these powers.

SECTION D - Housing

(See page 17 of the Chief Public Health Inspector's Report.)

SECTION E - Inspection and Supervision of Food

(See page 20 of the Chief Public Health Inspector's Report.)

Section F

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS

AND OTHER DISEASES

The notifiable diseases other than tuberculosis during the year, 1967 were:-

Disease	Cases Notified	Cases admitted to hospital	Total Deaths
Measles	177	-	-
Scarlet Fever	4	-	-
Whooping Cough	9	-	-
Food Poisoning	1	-	-
Totals	191	-	-

The following figures show notifications of certain infectious diseases since 1941:-

Year	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Acute Poliomyelitis	Measles	Whooping Cough
1941	23	4	0	271	137
1942	53	4	3	194	132
1943	35	0	0	280	51
1944	10	0	0	23	76
1945	14	0	0	287	22
1946	36	1	8	104	44
1947	11	0	3	51	58
1948	17	0	1	108	57
1949	11	0	1	278	43
1950	44	0	8	306	144
1951	15	0	3	179	67
1952	17	0	1	164	21
1953	22	0	1	381	142
1954	23	0	0	8	35
1955	4	0	1	537	9
1956	2	0	1	30	25
1957	6	0	0	301	16
1958	11	0	1	20	6
1959	5	0	1	698	9
1960	1	0	1	16	77
1961	0	0	2	440	3
1962	4	0	0	36	2
1963	4	0	0	413	21
1964	2	0	0	27	34
1965	2	0	0	332	3
1966	1	0	0	217	11
1967	4	0	0	177	9

### Immunisation

This service is carried out by the Divisional Medical Officer and he has kindly supplied the following schedule of the number of children in Potters Bar who received the various forms of immunisation during 1967.

	Triple Immunis- ation	Diphtheria/ Tetanus	Polio	Small- pox	Tetanus	Whoop- ing Cough
Primary	374	40	431	275	4	4
Booster Doses	331	334	550	ReVac 14	7	-

Tuberculosis - 1966

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35-45	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
45-55	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55-65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Over 65	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Totals 1967	2	-	-	1	1	-	-	1
Totals 1966	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-

The numbers of persons on the tuberculosis register at the commencement and end of the year are shown in the following table, as the foregoing gives no indication of inward and outward transfers, or of persons cured.

	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Total
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	
Total on register at commencement of year	35	30	65	1	1	2	67
Total on register at end of year	34	26	60	1	3	4	64

## REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my report for the year 1967.

The Smoke Control Order No.2 referred to in last year's report was confirmed by the Minister in January, 1967 and, following the distribution of the necessary information, application forms, etc. to the residents of the area, work commenced on the actual works of adaptation. Most of this was completed during the Summer months and, of course, necessitated a considerable number of visits and inspections by the Public Health Inspectors. In general there appeared to be a ready acceptance of smoke control by the inhabitants of this area and as works were completed and new appliances installed, with very few exceptions householders expressed their appreciation of the Council's initiative in introducing smoke control areas.

Because of the attention paid to the Smoke Control Area it followed that less time could be devoted to the usual routine duties of the Public Health Inspectors although, fortunately, work in connection with unfit houses continued to decline. The number of tenanted properties in the district decreases year by year and very few complaints regarding the condition of houses are received. Almost all unfit properties have been dealt with and the number of applications for improvement grants is also decreasing each year.

Towards the end of the year the Council received a letter from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food pointing out that there appeared to be a large increase in the number of rats in many parts of the Eastern Counties (including Hertfordshire). This increase was regarded with some concern and it was suggested that the Council should offer a Contract Service to occupiers of agricultural land. Arrangements were made for this to be done and the Contracts began operating early in 1968, but during 1967 the opinions expressed by the Ministry were confirmed by experience in this district. Inspections in connection with rodent control increased by about 30% and the number of notifications of infestation received increased by about 25%. It is hoped that the control of rats at agricultural premises which can be exercised through a Contract Service will give rise to general improvement in the situation in the district as a whole.



The service to occupiers of dwelling houses on a rechargeable basis in connection with choked drainage systems continued to operate through the year (after a trial period) and in general the scheme worked very well and seemed to be appreciated by those householders who used the service.

In connection with the storage of petroleum spirit, there is usually nothing of sufficient importance to warrant comment in this report but towards the end of 1967 a situation developed at licensed premises which called for remedial measures. The premises in question had been licensed for the storage of petroleum for many years but, in fact, no petrol actually had been used for the last two or three years and as the occupier, for many reasons, seemed to be incapable of exercising proper supervision of the installation or for arranging the testing of the storage tank, the Council notified him that his Licence to keep petroleum spirit would not be renewed. The Licensee did not take kindly to this decision and it was only after protracted discussions and negotiations that he eventually agreed to co-operate with the Council. Fortunately the Petroleum Company who had originally supplied the spirit were extremely helpful and arrangements were made for the petroleum spirit on the premises to be "uplifted" and the storage tank rendered safe.

No changes in the inspectorial staff occurred during the year but on the clerical side there were one or two changes. In general all members of the department have worked very well during the year and have given excellent and conscientious service.

Your obedient servant

J.H. ROOLEY

Chief Public Health Inspector

## HOUSING

Good housing conditions are essential to the health and welfare of every family and the attainment of this standard is one of the most important and rewarding of the department's functions. These duties involve the repair of unfit houses which are capable of repair at a reasonable cost; the demolition or closure of those houses which are unfit and incapable of repair at a reasonable cost; and the improvement, by means of improvement grants, of those houses which, although sound in structure, are lacking in modern amenities such as bathroom, internal w.c., domestic hot water supply, a wash basin and proper facilities for the storage of food.

Throughout the years much has been achieved by the demolition of most of the really bad properties and their replacement by houses conforming to modern standards, by the repair of those houses considered suitable for repair at a reasonable cost, and by a limited number of improvement grants. Today, therefore, although a few unfit properties remain and some are still without modern amenities, the standard of housing accommodation in the urban district can be regarded as good and no longer a serious problem.

### Slum Clearance

Limited progress was made in the clearance of some of the few remaining unfit dwelling houses. One house which was inspected as a result of complaint was represented to the Council as unfit for human habitation and incapable of repair at a reasonable cost and was subsequently closed. Four other dwelling houses, previously reported as unfit, were demolished.

### Repair

In addition to procedure under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957, and inspections in connection with improvement grants, 11 primary inspections of houses under the Public Health and Housing Acts were carried out as a result of complaints received. These figures do not include those houses dealt with for choked drainage only and which numbered 88 being the houses affected by 39 blockages.

During the year defects at 7 dwelling houses were remedied after formal or informal action.

## Improvement Grants

During the year, three formal applications for discretionary grants and one application for a standard grant were received and subsequently approved by the Council. Details of these applications are given below:-

<u>Premises</u>	<u>Discretionary Grants</u> <u>Nature of Improvements</u>	<u>Cost &amp; Amount</u> <u>of Grant</u>
56, Quakers Lane	Conversion of small back bedroom into bathroom comprising fixed bath, wash basin, internal w.c.; the provision of domestic hot and cold water supplies, ventilated food store and adequate fuel store.	£512. (£256).
90, Hatfield Road	Adaptation of entrance hall to afford a separate entrance to the ground floor flat; and alteration of fuel store, larder and external w.c. to provide bathroom with fixed bath, wash basin and internal w.c.; and the provision of hot and cold water supplies and ventilated food store.	£686. (£343).
1, Earls Lane	Conversion of existing bedroom into a bathroom/w.c.; and providing a side addition bedroom to replace that converted into bathroom.	£532. (£266).
<u>Standard Grant</u>		
8, Richmond Road	Conversion of back addition bedroom into bathroom comprising fixed bath, wash basin and w.c.; provision of hot and cold water supplies.	Max. grant £120.

In addition to the above improvements in private



dwelling houses, the improvement of 26 council-owned dwelling houses (Cecil Cottages) was carried out during the year at a total cost of £30,646.

The Council also approved a scheme for the improvement of 16 council-owned houses in Park Avenue at a total cost of £20,682. The work commenced in December, 1967.

### Certificates of Disrepair

No applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received during the year.

### Housing Management

The Public Health and Housing Department is a dual department in that it deals with all public health functions of the Council and also those of housing management.

The management of Council houses is not a subject required by the Ministry to be dealt with in the Annual Report, but given below is a brief summary of the main items affecting the year under review. It is not intended to be a comprehensive report on all details of housing management which are dealt with in the department.

During 1967 40 new dwellings were built, 12 single bedroom bungalows at Gascoyne Close and 24 single bedroom flats and 4 single bedroom bungalows at Byers Close. Twenty-one new lock-up garages were built in connection with these developments. One house originally built by the Council but previously sold to the tenant was re-purchased.

The improvement scheme for the 26 properties at Cecil Cottages, referred to in last year's report was completed towards the end of the year and the houses now have a high standard of amenity and tenants appear to be well satisfied with the improvements made. A similar scheme has been commenced at the 16 houses of similar type in Park Avenue and it is hoped to complete these during 1968.

The provision of the flats and bungalows enabled many transfers to be effected and very many cases of "under-occupation" were satisfactorily resolved. In all, 116 transfers were dealt with and the total number of lettings made throughout the year was 184 - the highest ever made. Sixty-eight families were housed

from the waiting list.

Work continued on the Mutton Lane estate but many unforeseen difficulties arose and unfortunately no properties were completed and available for letting during 1967.

During the year a revision of the waiting list was carried out and this resulted in 87 applicants being removed from the waiting list. The number on the lists at the end of the year were:-

General list	328
Aged persons' list	85
Single persons	17
	<hr/>
	430
	<hr/>

There were also 31 deferred applications.

#### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

As usual a considerable amount of the public health inspectors' time was devoted to the unspectacular but nevertheless important duty of ensuring, as far as practicable, the cleanliness and safety of the food supplies. This work not only entailed the inspection of food and all the various types of food premises and vehicles, but "on the spot" education and advice to food handlers and management on the subject of food hygiene.

215 inspections and other visits were made to the various food premises, vehicles, etc. in which food was prepared, stored or sold. 21 informal notices under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1960 were served, and 25 informal notices were complied with during the year.

The tables that follow show at the 31st December, 1967 the principal food trades in the district, and the number registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955:-

### Catering Establishments

(a) Restaurants, Cafes, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	25
(b) School Meals Centres	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
(c) Works Canteens	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
(d) Hospital and Institution Kitchens	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Butchers	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
Fishmongers	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Grocers	..	..	..	..	..	..	31
Greengrocers	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Milk Distribution Depots	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Bakers and Confectioners	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Public Houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
Sweet Shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	18

### Ice-cream:-

Manufacturers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	NIL
Vendors only (Registered)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	40

### Number of food premises, by type, registered under

#### Section 16, Food and Drugs Act, 1955

Storage, sale or manufacture of ice-cream	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	40
Manufacture of sausages	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Boiling of hams	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Cooking of poultry	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Frying of fish	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Pickling of pork and beef	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Preserved foods	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
								<hr/> 63 <hr/>

### Certificates of Exemption

No Certificates of Exemption under the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1960 were issued during the year.

### Ice-cream

Most of the ice-cream retailed within the district was obtained from large scale manufacturers outside the district, and as usual there were a few itinerant traders selling in the district from premises outside.

One new application for registration under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the storage and sale of ice-cream was received, and at the end of the year there were 40 premises registered.

During 1967, 56 samples of ice-cream were obtained and subjected to the methylene blue test at the Central Public Health Laboratory, Colindale. The results were as follows:-

<u>Satisfactory</u>		<u>Unsatisfactory</u>	
<u>Grade 1</u>	<u>Grade 2</u>	<u>Grade 3</u>	<u>Grade 4</u>
47	9	0	0

### Food Poisoning

Only one case of food poisoning was notified during 1967. The patient was a 48 year old woman who had recently toured part of the Middle East and had no doubt acquired the infection abroad. The causal organism was identified as S. Ruiru.

### Inspection and sampling of food

During the year 6 food complaints were received from members of the public and investigated by the department. Four of these complaints referred to alleged unsoundness in the food purchased, one of a foreign body in the food and one was in respect of a dirty milk bottle. All were dealt with informally and in no case was it felt justified to recommend legal proceedings, although warnings were given where necessary.

Several other food complaints concerning foreign matter in food were referred directly to the County Council as Food and Drugs Authority.



The quantity of food which was examined and found unfit for human consumption and subsequently surrendered and destroyed was:

Unsound Food - 1967

	<u>cwts.</u>	<u>lbs.</u>	<u>ozs.</u>
Fresh meat .. .. .	1	44	3
Canned meat .. .. .		7	-
Frozen meat foods .. .. .		28	-
Canned fruit .. .. .		59	-
Canned vegetables .. .. .		4	14
Canned fish .. .. .		1	3
	2 cwts.	32 lbs.	4 ozs.

All condemned food was disposed of by burial at the Council's refuse tips.

In addition to the investigation by the County of specific complaints concerning the sale of food not of the nature substance or quality demanded by the purchaser, the routine sampling of food for adulteration, etc. was carried out by the Public Control Department of the Hertfordshire County Council. Mr. E.A. Nisbet, Chief Officer of that department has kindly supplied the following information concerning samples taken in Potters Bar during the year ended 31st December, 1967:-

"Genuine

Blackcurrant Jam	Brandy flavoured Butter
Margarine with 10% butter.	Chocolate flavoured
Celery Salt	Syrup
Buttered Nougat	Lime Cordial & Lager
Vinegar	Ground Nutmeg
Tabasca Pepper Sauce	Old English Treacle
Ginger Preserve	Brittle
Natural Orange Juice	Potted Beef with Butter
Drink	Orange Juice
New Potatoes	Grapefruit Juice
Double Cream	Marmalade - Scotch Whisky
Blackcurrant Vit.	flavoured
"C" drink	Sweetened Grapefruit
Extra Hot Mustard	Juice
Cocktail Onions	Beef Sausages

Milks - 9.

## Not Genuine

- Dried Bananas - Statement '8 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs fresh bananas necessary to produce 1lb of Dried Bananas' - incorrect. This sample 5.3lb fresh = 1lb dried. Letter to manufacturers who agreed to delete the phrase '8 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs fresh bananas necessary to produce 1lb dried bananas'.
- English Hot Prepared Mustard - No significant pungent flavour. Chemical analysis showed that it contained an insignificant proportion of Allyl-iso-thiocyanate, the constituent of prepared mustard responsible for the pungency. Description "Hot Prepared Mustard" no longer applicable. Manufacturers have produced new containers deleting the word "hot".
- Prawns - Eggs or Spawn were a brilliant red - The colouring matter was Ponceau 4R which is permitted in cooked prawns. Buyer and seller advised.

## Complaints

- Pineapple - Mould growth in 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb tin delivered to Cranborne JMI School. Caution.
- Peas - Slug in packet. New colour sorting machine installed by manufacturers. Caution.
- Sausages - Contained hair grip at Cranborne JMI School. Insufficient evidence. No action.
- Milk - Cement in bottle. Company installing electronic detector. Caution.
- Ice-Cream - Containing minute fly of midge type. Caution.
- Cherry and Walnut Cake - Contained nail. Prosecution. H.G. Cobb Bros. Ltd. Fined £60. with costs £6. 17. 8d.
- Bread - Contained string. Caution.
- Milk - Dirt in bottle. Caution.
- Bread - Contained live insects which could have originated after sale. No further action.

Cream	- Contained large piece of broken glass. Caution.
Yogurt	- Contained Cherry pip. Prosecution. Dismissed.
Bread Roll	- Contained fragment of burnt fibrous vegetable matter and burnt bread. Caution.
Milk C.I.	- Microscopical examination showed that the brownish mass consisted of caramelised milk film. Caution."

### The Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963

One sample of liquid egg was submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Colindale for the Alpha-Amylase test and was found to be satisfactory.

### Slaughterhouses

There are no public or private slaughterhouses in the district.

### PEST CONTROL

The destruction of rats and mice is the most important of the department's functions in the field of pest control. For this purpose the Council employ a rodent operator and his services are available to occupiers of buildings and land on a rechargeable basis. In the case of dwelling houses, however, a nominal charge of 2/6d. is made.

Certain other pests of public health significance are dealt with from time to time and in particular large numbers of wasps nests are destroyed annually.

Advice on the eradication of farm pests such as rabbits, squirrels, certain birds, etc. can be obtained from the Regional Pests Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

### Rats and Mice

In the year under review 227 notifications of rats and/or mice were received and investigated compared with 182 during



1966. The number of primary surveys carried out as a routine measure or associated with notifications was 327 compared with 263 in 1966, and the total number of treatments was 213 compared with 183 last year.

As in previous years, the methods of eradication employed were in accordance with the recommendations of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

The types of infestation encountered followed the usual pattern - gardens, yards and outbuildings attached to dwelling houses predominating.

Below is a summary of the work carried out by the department during 1967:-

Number of primary surveys carried out

by (a) notification .. .. .	227	) 327
(b) otherwise .. .. .	100	

Total number of visits made in connection with Rodent Control	1,453
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Number of separate treatments carried out

	<u>Rats</u>	<u>Mice</u>	<u>Total</u>
(a) by Local Authority .. .. .	198	15	213
(b) by Occupiers .. .. .	-	-	-
	<hr/> 198	<hr/> 15	<hr/> 213

Number of cases where no infestation was found .. 114

The details that follow show the types of infestation dealt with by Local Authority:-

	<u>Rats</u>	<u>Mice</u>	<u>Total</u>
Dwelling Houses .. .. .	12	11	23
Gardens and Yards (including outbuildings)	145	-	145
Sewers and drains .. .. .	-	-	-
Agricultural Property .. .. .	8	-	8
Schools (including Meals Centres) .. .. .	3	1	4
Shop Premises .. .. .	6	1	7
Building Sites .. .. .	7	0	7
Other Premises .. .. .	17	2	19
	<hr/> 198	<hr/> 15	<hr/> 213

Details of action taken under the Prevention of Damage  
by Pests Act, 1949:-

Number of informal notices served in respect of

(a)	treatment	.. .. .	26
(b)	structural work (proofing)	.. .. .	-

} 26

Number of statutory notices served .. .. -

Legal proceedings instituted .. .. -

Premises rat-proofed .. .. -

### Other Pests

The work carried out by the department in connection with the eradication of insect pests, other than wasps, was confined almost entirely to advisory measures.

Wasps' nests were treated by the department at 87 premises and advice was offered in many other cases.

### SMOKE ABATEMENT

The Urban District is not within an area defined as a "black area", and it has no industrial smoke problem. It has, however, the usual problem from dwelling houses.

### Clean Air Act, 1956

#### (a) Smoke Control Areas

The Potters Bar Urban District No.2 Smoke Control Order, 1966 was confirmed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government early in 1967, and became operative on the 1st October, 1967.

A very considerable proportion of the public health inspectors' time was devoted to duties associated with the adaptation and conversion of heating appliances in dwelling houses.

#### (b) Smoke Nuisances (Section 16)

Only infrequently is it found necessary to take any action in regard to smoke nuisances. Nine complaints of nuisances

from bonfires were investigated during the year and resolved informally. No statutory action was necessary.

(c) New Furnaces (Section 3)

All applications under Section 3(2) for the prior approval of new furnaces are dealt with jointly by the Engineer and Surveyor and myself, but during the year no applications were received.

One notification under Section 3(3) regarding the installation of a new furnace was received.

(d) Height of Chimneys (Section 10)

Plans of new buildings (other than dwellings, shops and offices) which indicate the proposed erection of a chimney, are examined jointly by the Engineer and Surveyor and myself. During the year no such plans were received.

(e) National Survey of Air Pollution

In 1961, the Council agreed to a request by the Department of Scientific & Industrial Research to co-operate in a national survey of atmospheric pollution, and for this purpose set up 2 air pollution measurement stations. These were established at Wyllyotts Manor and, in collaboration with the Education Office, at Mount Grace School.

At each of these sites apparatus is installed to measure the concentration of smoke and sulphur-dioxide in the atmosphere. Readings are taken daily and are sent for analysis to the Warren Springs Laboratory at Stevenage at the end of every 4 or 5-week period. Readings taken throughout the country are subsequently tabulated etc. and published monthly by the Department of Scientific & Industrial Research.

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

The main provisions of this Act which are designed to safeguard the health, welfare and safety of all persons employed in offices, shops and warehouses, railway premises, etc., came into operation on the 1st August, 1964.

The following information is taken from the Annual Report submitted to the Ministry of Labour for the period ended 31st December, 1967:-

No. of registered premises:-

Offices .. .. .	77
Retail shops .. .. .	170
Wholesale shops, warehouses .. .. .	7
Catering Establishments open to the public, canteens .. .. .	24
Fuel storage depots .. .. .	NIL
Total	278

Analysis of persons employed in registered premises:-

<u>Class of workplace</u>	<u>No. of persons employed</u>
Offices .. .. .	748
Retail shops .. .. .	827
Wholesale departments, warehouses .. .. .	122
Catering Establishments open to the public .. .. .	195
Canteens .. .. .	5
Fuel storage premises .. .. .	NIL
Total	1897

Total males 890  
" females 1007

No. of visits of all kinds by Inspectors to registered premises 144

Applications for exemptions:-

Space (Section 5 (2)) .. .. .	NIL
Temperature (Section 6) .. .. .	NIL
Sanitary Conveniences (Section 9) .. .. .	NIL
Washing facilities (Section 10) .. .. .	NIL
Prosecutions .. .. .	NIL

Accidents

One minor accident was notified under Section 48 of the Act.

DRAINAGE

In December, 1966 the Council decided to invoke their powers under Section 22 Public Health Act, 1961 and to assist



the owners or occupiers of certain premises with the clearance of obstructed drainage systems, subject to a charge being made for the service.

During the year 48 choked drainage systems involving 138 premises were dealt with by the department, and at 5 premises the drainage systems were repaired, reconstructed or enlarged.

Charges totalling £117 were made in respect of the clearance of private drainage systems other than public sewers.

### NOISE ABATEMENT

With the coming into operation of the Noise Abatement Act, 1960, "noise or vibration which is a nuisance" can be dealt with as a statutory nuisance for the purposes of Part III of the Public Health Act, 1936. In the case of a nuisance of the kind produced in the course of a trade or business it is a defence for the defendant to prove that the best practicable means have been used for preventing, and for counteracting the effect of, the noise or vibration.

During the year only 5 complaints of noise were received and 22 visits were made to investigate them.

The complaints were in respect of noise from a shoe repairing shop, a music shop, a factory and two dwelling houses.

Where necessary, informal action was sufficient to secure abatement of the nuisance.

### MISCELLANEOUS

#### Caravan Sites

At the commencement of the year there were 6 caravan sites in occupation, only 2 of which held planning permission and site licences.

One of those without planning permission or site licence was removed during 1967. Another was granted a further short term planning consent and site licence. A third, for which planning consent was refused in 1966, was the subject of an Enforcement Notice served by the Council in 1967. No further action was taken, however, because the occupier of the site gave an assurance that the caravan would not be occupied without first obtaining planning permission. In the case of the fourth site where one caravan was occupied by an old man looking after a small-holding, there was no planning permission or site licence in force.

At the end of the year, therefore, there were only 4 caravan sites on which 4 caravans were occupied. Three of the sites had planning permission and site licences.

#### Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951

One factory in which the manufacture of soft furnishings is carried on is registered under the above Act.

#### Pet Animals Act, 1951

Two applications for licences to keep pet shops were received during the year, and at each shop conditions were found to be satisfactory and licences were issued.

#### Street Trading

No formal applications under the Middlesex County Council Act, 1944, for street trading licences were received.

#### Shops Act, 1950

Inspection duties under the Shops Acts are usually combined with those under other headings carried out at shop premises, but many enquiries are dealt with usually in connection with hours of closing, Sunday Trading, etc.

### Consumer Protection Act, 1961

This Act, which came into operation on the 19th August, 1961 repealed the Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Act, 1952. No action was needed during the year.

### Riding Establishments Act, 1964

This Act, which came into operation on the 1st April, 1965, provides for the licensing of riding establishments by the local authority. A fee of £10 is payable and the licence remains in force for one year. In 1967 two applications for licences were received. One application was granted but the second was refused after consideration of a report by the Council's Veterinary Officer.

### Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963

This Act, which came into operation on the 1st January, 1964, provides for the licensing of animal boarding establishments by local authorities. A licence fee of 10/-d. is payable and the licence remains in force for one year. No licences were issued in 1967.

### Petroleum Acts and Regulations

The Council's various functions under the Acts and Regulations dealing with the storage of petroleum spirit, petroleum mixtures and other substances subject to licence control are also administered by the Public Health Department.

During 1967 one new licence for the storage of 50 gallons of petroleum mixtures was approved and an existing licence was amended to permit the additional storage of 3,000 gallons.

At the time of installation, new storage tanks are subjected to an air pressure test and existing tanks are tested periodically in accordance with the terms of the particular licence (usually by ullage test). During 1967 one tank was tested prior to the renewal of the licence. Four tanks at a service station became disused and were filled with water pending redevelopment of the site.

After considerable negotiations, the licensee at premises where petroleum had been stored, but not used, for many years



was persuaded to discontinue his licence and about 500 gallons of spirit were removed from the premises. The tank was rendered safe by filling with water.

At the end of the year 29 licences were in force and these permitted a total storage capacity of 128,750 gallons.

GENERAL SANITARY ADMINISTRATION

Visits and Inspections made during the year

Visits and inspections under the Public Health Acts .. ..	482
Visits and inspections under the Housing Acts .. ..	103
Visits and inspections under the Food and Drugs Act .. ..	254
Visits and inspections under the Factories Act .. ..	23
Visits and inspections under the Petroleum Acts and Regulations .. ..	75
Visits and inspections under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act .. ..	144
Shop Act visits and inspections .. ..	-
Visits and inspections re Infectious Diseases .. ..	60
Visits and inspections under the Rent Act .. ..	-
Visits and inspections re Rodent Control	
(by Public Health Inspectors) .. ..	21
(by Rodent Operator) .. ..	1432
Administrative visits .. ..	92
Rehousing visits, etc. .. ..	6
Inspections under the Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act .. ..	-
Visits under Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act	13
Visits under Pet Animals Act .. ..	2
Visits under Rag Flock Act .. ..	-
Visits under Clean Air Act .. ..	785
Visits under Herts. C.C. Act - Employment Agencies .. ..	4
Visits under Noise Abatement Act .. ..	22
Visits under Riding Establishments Act .. ..	-
Miscellaneous visits .. ..	109
Housing Management .. ..	283
Total	<u>3910</u>

### Details of Formal and Informal Action

Number of premises etc. in respect of which informal notices were given .. .. .	80
Number of premises etc. where improvements were effected following informal notices .. .. .	86

### Legal Proceedings

No legal proceedings were taken during the year.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961Part I1. INSPECTIONS

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		Occupiers prosecuted (5)
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	NIL	NIL	NIL
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	81	22	NIL	NIL
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	10	NIL	NIL	NIL
Total	96	22	NIL	NIL

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	by H.M. Inspector (5)	
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	NIL	NIL	NIL
Total	1	1	NIL	NIL	NIL

Part VIII

Outwork (Sections 133 & 134)

Making, Cleaning, Washing, etc. of										
Wearing Apparel	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Making of Artificial Flowers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1













